



DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

E. Steven Emanuel
Chief Information Officer

MINUTES OF TFCG MEETING

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TFCG) was held on December 6, 2007. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Carlton Gilbert	M-NCPPC	(301) 495-4577
Helen Mu	DTS	(240) 777-2804
Dave Niblock	DPS	(240) 777-6252
Mary Pat Wilson	MCPS	(240) 314-4707
Marjorie Williams	OCCS	(240) 777-3762
Jennifer Bryant	OMB	(240) 777-2761

STAFF

Bob Hunnicutt	CTC	(301) 933-1488
Bill O'Brien	CTC	(301) 933-1488
Shivani Gandhi	CTC	(301) 933-1488

OTHER ATTENDEES

Adam Knubel	NB&C	(410) 712-4056
Jeff Dolan	Ejaad/Nextel	
Alecia Ober	NB&C	(410) 712-4056
Liz West	NB&C	(410) 712-4056

Action Item – Meeting Minutes: Dave Niblock moved the minutes be approved as written. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Consent Agenda Applications:

1. FiberTower application to attach ten dish antennas centered at the 203' level on the penthouse walls atop the 180' Silver Spring Center building located at 8455 Colesville Road in Silver Spring (Application #200710-02).
2. Sprint-Nextel application to replace twelve 48" panel antennas with twelve 48" panel antennas at the 128' level atop a 130' high lattice tower located at 12419 Middlebrook Road in Germantown (Application #200711-03).

3. Sprint-Nextel application to replace three 48" panel antennas and add one additional 48" panel antenna to the existing mounts at the 138' level atop a 16-story Park Montgomery apartment building located at 8860 Piney Branch Road in Silver Spring (Application #200711-04).

Motion: Carlton Gilbert moved the consent agenda items be recommended. Dave Niblock seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Sprint-Nextel application to attach three 48" panel antennas at the 59' level atop the 57' high National 4-H Council building located at 7100 Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase (Application #200708-07).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the antennas will be enclosed within a faux chimney atop the building. He said the applicant stated he had notified the Town of Chevy Chase about the application and was advised by Town staff that they would consider the attachment once it had been reviewed by the TFCG. Mr. Hunnicutt added that he had talked to the manager of the Center who informed him that he had reviewed the proposal with Nextel and had no problems with it. Mr. Hunnicutt noted his recommendation is conditioned on any modification that may be necessary to the Special Exception(s) for the antennas or the use of the property for the Center, and approval by the Town of Chevy Chase.

Motion: Carlton Gilbert moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Verizon Wireless application to attach six 71" and six 47" panel antennas at the 36' and 57' levels on an approximately 43' high EZ Storage building located at 1352 Holton Lane in Takoma Park (Application #200710-03).

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application. Marjorie Williams asked if the antennas would be placed where circled on the photos. Mr. Hunnicutt stated that they would.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: Sprint-Nextel application to construct a new 83' high monopole on Neelsville Middle School property located at 11700 Neelsville Church Road in Germantown (Application #200607-03).

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that the 83' monopole was designed to be extended up to 10' to facilitate future co-location if needed. He said that the original representative on this application remarked that because of the height of the trees adjacent to the monopole, additional carriers seeking to attach to the monopole may need to have their antennas above the tree level. An extension to the monopole would make that possible. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that two additional carriers may be able to attach their antennas on the structure at the current 83' height, depending on their coverage objective and antenna transmission characteristics. He noted, however, that there appears to be just enough ground space for only the applicant's equipment.

Mr. Hunnicutt said he had asked the applicant to explain why they could not use a number of alternative existing structures he identified, including the buildings in the Milestone Shopping Center, the Daly Elementary School monopole, the Hughes towers, or the State of Maryland's lattice tower at the Montgomery College campus. The applicant reported that the State had denied their attachment to their tower because they planned to use the available space for State communications purposes. The applicant provided RF contour maps illustrating calculated coverage from the other alternative sites and, based on CTC's review of those maps, they agreed that antennas from either of those locations may not meet the targeted coverage objective.

He added that it appeared the monopole was being constructed for a private use and that if the schools put lights on the structure once constructed (as they reported they would), it would be a secondary use of the facility. Consequently, it appeared that approval of a Special Exception may be needed, and is a condition of his recommendation. The option of disguising the monopole as a tree was discussed with the applicant because the monopole, as viewed from the surrounding community, would appear against the background of the trees around the school property and on the hill behind the school (as illustrated in the Tower Coordinators photos). The applicant responded that they thought a tree disguise was inappropriate. Mr. Hunnicutt said he disagreed with that assessment and also conditioned his recommendation on Sprint-Nextel reconsidering a tree disguise for the monopole.

Marjorie Williams asked if the new school principal has agreed with the use of the school property for the monopole. Mary Pat Wilson confirmed that was the case.

Carlton Gilbert asked how the extension would be approved. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that if needed, the applicant seeking the extension would have to apply to the TFCG and provide documentation to support the additional height.

Jeff Dolan asked the group to consider conditioning their recommendation on either a mandatory referral or a Special Exception. Marjorie Williams replied that she had been advised by the County Attorney that the Tower Coordinator and the group could recommend whatever they thought appropriate for an application.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was approved with Mary Pat Wilson and Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to construct a new 120' high monopole on the Our Lady of Good Counsel High School property located at 17301 Old Victory Boulevard in Olney (Application #200706-04).

Mr. Hunnicutt summarized the application noting that it appeared that a Special Exception was needed for the monopole. He added that initially the applicant reported the monopole would not be designed to support co-location. Consequently, he did not recommend the application as noted on the recommendation contained in the member packets distributed for the meeting. He noted after the packets were mailed, the applicant had provided a statement that the monopole design had been modified and had provided a new set of drawings that showed adequate ground

space for equipment from additional carriers seeking to co-locate at this site. Therefore, he can now recommend the application conditioned on obtaining approval through the Special Exception process.

Mr. Hunnicutt commented that it appeared that the school property was quite large and surrounded by wooded areas that would likely screen the monopole from view to most of the community. However, he noted there were signs posted that a new 30-home subdivision was planned for the property across the street from the athletic field. He said it appears that new residents would be able to see the monopole above the level of the lights that the school plans to attach once the monopole is constructed.

He asked Shivani Gandhi to summarize her review of the RF contour maps. Ms. Gandhi explained that the applicant had submitted RF maps illustrating coverage from antennas at lower elevations but she agreed it appears that the 120' elevation may likely be needed to meet the stated coverage objective.

Sprint-Nextel's Liz West noted that the recommendation form still has a sentence that the recommendation was not recommended. Mr. Hunnicutt said he would correct that and reissue a new form for the record.

Motion: Dave Niblock moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Discussion Item - 2008 meeting agenda: Marjorie Williams remarked that the Tower Coordinator had provided a copy of 2008 tentative meeting dates, and asked if the dates were agreeable to the group. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the dates were all the first Wednesday of each month except for January, which was the second Wednesday of the month due to the holidays. He asked if the group would prefer to do the same for the week in which the 4th of July holiday falls. The group agreed that the July meeting should also be held on the second Wednesday of the month because of the holiday.

Discussion Item - Chair of the TFCG: Marjorie Williams reported that she would chair the meetings temporarily until the Department appointed a permanent replacement for Jane Lawton.

The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #114 of the COB.